



Conradson and Henson named AAAS Fellows

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Steven Conradson of Materials Science in Radiation and Dynamics Extremes (MST-8) and Bryan Henson of Physical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (C-PCS) are new Fellows of the Chemistry Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS Council elects members whose “efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.” The honor is bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers for significant contributions to science and technology.

Conradson’s achievements

Conradson was honored for “distinguished contributions to physical inorganic chemistry with particular emphasis on X-ray absorption spectroscopy and its applications in biology, solid-state physics, and actinide chemistry.”

Conradson obtained a doctorate in Physical Chemistry from Stanford University. He joined Los Alamos in 1985 after a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship at

Harvard University. Conradson has participated in multi-institutional projects involving environmental, separations, and fundamental actinide chemistry. As project leader of X-ray absorption fine structure spectroscopy, he has worked with collaborators from many countries to study radioactive materials at X-ray light sources. In 1993, he pioneered the routine, large-scale application of synchrotron X-ray techniques to determine local structure and chemical speciation in radioactive samples. Conradson also leads MST-8's Radiation Science, Nuclear Materials and Fuels Experimental Team, which recently reported a number of unique and extreme behaviors in $\text{UO}_{2(+x)}$. This discovery is remarkable considering that this industrial chemical is one of the most extensively studied compounds in materials science.

Henson's achievements

Henson was recognized for “distinguished contributions in the fields of physical chemistry and molecular spectroscopy, including the application of second harmonic generation (SHG) to the study of organic explosives.”

Henson received a doctorate in Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. He joined LANL in 1991 as a DOE Global Climate Change Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow. His early career research used second harmonic generation techniques to interrogate stratospheric ice formation as a method to study global warming. Henson later applied the tools he developed for climate chemistry to high explosives research. He has garnered numerous external awards and published over 75 papers, including five *Physical Review Letters*. NNSA, DOE, DoD and other organizations have recognized him for his contributions to the study of thermal response in explosives.

About AAAS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is a nonprofit professional society dedicated to the advancement of scientific and technological excellence across all disciplines, and to the public's understanding of science and technology. Its membership comprises more than 134,000 scientists, engineers, science educators, policymakers and other professionals worldwide. Being elected as a Fellow in the AAAS is a significant recognition from a distinguished peer group. This year in the Chemistry category, Conradson and Henson were among 40 scientists chosen nationwide. In all 388 scientists from a broad range of disciplines will be honored in February at the 2014 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago. The honor of being elected a Fellow began in 1874 and is acknowledged with a certificate and rosette.

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